

VZCZCXYZ0002  
PP RUEHWEB

DE RUEHDG #2962 2571811  
ZNY CCCCC ZZH  
P 141811Z SEP 06  
FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6116  
INFO RUEHZA/WHA CENTRAL AMERICAN COLLECTIVE PRIORITY  
RUEHWN/AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN PRIORITY 1956  
RUEHCV/AMEMBASSY CARACAS PRIORITY 0647  
RUEHGE/AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN PRIORITY 0889  
RUEHKG/AMEMBASSY KINGSTON PRIORITY 2632  
RUEHPO/AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO PRIORITY 1029  
RUEHPU/AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE PRIORITY 4344  
RUEHSP/AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN PRIORITY 1709  
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY  
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHDC PRIORITY  
RUEHC/DEPT OF LABOR WASHDC PRIORITY  
RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHDC PRIORITY  
RUCPDO/USDOC WASHDC PRIORITY 1555  
RUCOWCV/CUSTOMS CARIBBEAN ATTACHE MIAMI FL PRIORITY  
RUEAHL/CDR USSOUTHCOM MIAMI FL PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTO DOMINGO 002962

SIPDIS

SIPDIS

STATE FOR WHA, WHA/CAR, INR/IAA; USSOUTHCOM ALSO FOR POLAD;  
TREASURY FOR OASIA-JLEVINE; DEPT PASS USDA FOR FAS; USDOC  
FOR 4322/ITA/MAC/WH/CARIBBEAN BASIN DIVISION; USDOC FOR  
3134/ITA/USFCS/RD/WH; DHS FOR CIS-CARLOS ITURREGUI

E.O. 12958: DECL: 09/13/2016

TAGS: [DR](#) [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [HA](#)

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR'S MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER:  
CAFTA-DR, HAITI

Classified By: Ambassador Hans H. Hertell, Reasons 1.4(b), (d)

1. (U) Ambassador Hertell met with Foreign Minister Carlos Morales Troncoso on September 12 to introduce Post's new DCM, Roland Bullen. Dominican Under Secretary Jose Manuel Trullols and POLOFF also attended.

2. (C) Following pleasantries, the Ambassador raised the CAFTA-DR implementation process, noting that President Fernandez had expressed to us surprise that several key issues remained to be solved. The Ambassador told Morales that time is running out and that, whatever it takes, we need to get a deal done. Failure on the part of the Dominican negotiators to be forthright about where implementation talks stand is holding up progress. For example, in a September 11 meeting, Secretariat of Industry and Commerce CAFTA Implementation Director Vilma Arbaje told the Ambassador that a key difference the Dominicans had been debating with USTR over an industrial property related definition -- a point vital to implementation -- had been resolved. She said that USTR had agreed with the Dominicans, definition of the term "new product" -- a statement which was later confirmed by USTR to be clearly false.

3. (C) The Ambassador told the Foreign Minister said that Arbajes's behavior damaged the atmosphere of the implementation talks and lowered U.S. confidence in the good faith of the Dominican side. We believe, he continued, that President Fernandez has good intentions with regard to implementation without delay of CAFTA-DR; however, the problem appears to be that his position is not percolating down to the Dominican bureaucracy.

4. (C) The Ambassador also inquired about the recent postponement of a visit to Santo Domingo by Haitian Foreign Minister Clerisme. Morales said that the Haitian Foreign Minister had cancelled the visit at the last moment without

explanation. Clerisme is "pro-Aristide," "up to no good," and "anti-Dominican." "He'll have a hard time catching up with me" (i.e. rescheduling the visit).

¶5. (C) Comment: Post is preparing a strong, appropriate response to Arbaje's unacceptable statements on September 11.

On Haiti, while Morales was clearly annoyed by Clerisme's actions, he took care to note that President Preval is a "good friend" of the Dominican Republic. Morales even speculated that Preval may have cancelled the visit out of fear that Clerisme would do harm to the bilateral relationship.

¶6. (U) This report and extensive other material can be consulted on our SIPIRNET site,  
<http://www.state.sgov.gov/p/wha/santodomingo/> .  
HERTELL